

Annual Report

July 1, 2007 – June 30, 2008

The District consists of five elected Supervisors and one appointed County Representative. There are two District employees and an equipment manager. They are:

Chairperson	Elbert Mills
Vice Chairman	Carl Erquiaga
Secretary/Treasurer	Morena Hesel
Member	Norris Albaugh
Member	Mile Bailey
County representative	Lynn Pearce
Equipment manager	Larry Miller
District Clerk	Jessi Eckert
Project Manager	Tom Lawry

Lahontan Conservation District Board members meet monthly for a Board Meeting. The meetings are the second Tuesday of every month in the conference room at the Agriculture Service Center, 111 Sheckler Road, Fallon, Nevada

The District works in partnership with the Fallon Field Office of the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). The staff consists of the following:

Lahontan Area Staff

Area Conservationist	Debra Brackley
Resource Soil Scientist	Steve Herriman
Resource Conservationist	Albert Mulder
Prgm. Admin. Assistant	Jennifer Hesselgesser

Fallon Field Office

District Conservationist	Craig McKnight
Soil Conservationist	Jessica Newpher
Soil Conservationist Technician	Gretchen Beausoleil
Soil Conservationist Technician	Ed Sturges

INFORMATION AND EDUCATION

One of the major goals of Lahontan Conservation District is to provide information and education to agricultural producers, other landusers, and the general public. To achieve this goal, the District actively participated in the following:

LCD held the Carson River Day on October 25, 2007. The Churchill County students learned the importance of water quality, wildlife habitat, soils, soil erosion, water tables, noxious weeds, and the water cycle.

The Soil Stewardship informational material was promoted to several church groups.

The LCD sponsored two students to attend Nevada Youth Range Camp they were Kelsey Visarraga and Mireya Montero.

The LCD publishes a Newsletter quarterly which is sent out to 200 cooperators. The newsletter provided important information concerning NRCS programs and deadlines, Noxious weed programs, new information on the new farm bill, and all Conservation District news.

The Lahontan Conservation District is a signatory party to the cooperative agreement with the Lahontan Valley Environmental Alliance. Jessi Eckert is the LCD's representative on the board of directors.

The Lahontan Conservation District participates in Churchill County Cooperative Weed Management Area.

Nevada Water Resources Association Scholarship applications were distributed and discussed at the Churchill County High School.

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

The District reviewed 17 Subdivision maps to limit encroachment on prime farmland and lands of local importance including wetlands. The maps were also checked for proper irrigation and drainage.

NRCS farm plans were reviewed by the District supervisors and signed. Adequacy and efficiency of irrigation systems, soil erosion control, and treatment of highly erodible soils will be reviewed for compliance with USDA provisions and regulations.

CONSERVATION PROJECTS

A second goal of the District is to create and implement programs that address natural resource issues.

LCD has worked with two property owners in the Swingle Bench area to help them plant and implement a re-vegetation project on their property. We participated in a neighborhood meeting

to help organize and discuss a larger re-vegetation project on several different properties to alleviate dust and wind erosion in the area.

LCD is in the process of monitoring the Rambling River Ranches conservation easements. Money was set aside from this easement to pay the labor and other associated cost to do the work.

CURRENT GRANTS AND CONTRACTS

The District is continuing to work with Churchill County Mosquito Weed Abatement to control the noxious weeds in Churchill County. The program is funded by the Carson Water Subconservancy District. Six thousand is given to the LCD to be used for seasonal labor cost, chemical application, chemical purchasing and weed mapping. The landowners are given 2-4D Amine and Round-up to spray their own properties. Sixty landowners participated in the program from April through June, 2008. Landowners have treated approximately 250 acres.

The District is using twenty thousand dollars from Carson Water Subconservancy funding to re-establish channel capacity and reduce the threat of flooding, reduce sediment load in the river, improve wildlife habitat, improve water quality, and debris removal. The Nevada Division of Forestry (NDF) Crew's have been working on the river with slash pile burning, removing debris in and along the river and removed twelve beaver dams that cause destruction and blocked the river flow. Approximately 2 miles along the Carson River has been cleaned by the NDF Crews.

In addition the LCD requested the Churchill County to help with funding to provide additional money to support the clearing and snagging along the Carson River. The request was for five thousand dollars for administration fees and NDF crews. Churchill County approved the request in February for fiscal year 07/08.

The Lahontan Conservation District has a contract from the BOR to provide irrigation system evaluations for farmers who request them.

These Evaluations review on-farm delivery ditches, slope of fields, length of runs, and over all efficiency. Irrigators to maximize benefits from their water allocations can use this information. Lahontan Conservation District has also performed one hundred and fifty on farm water measurements to verify farm water changes by the irrigation farm district.

INCOME

Lahontan Conservation District continues to run a successful equipment Rental program. Rental receipts totaled \$11,319.22 and equipment sales were \$29,050.00. The equipment is rented to District cooperators for conservation purposes. The Lahontan Conservation District has 83 dues paying cooperators.

The annual tree sale grossed \$3,882.72. Trees were purchased from Lawry Nursery and Broad Acres. Trees purchased totaled \$1,787.19. LCD profit was \$2,095.53.

LCD received \$5,000.00 from the State and \$10,000.00 from Churchill County totaling \$15,000.00 to help in Conservation practices.

EVENTS ATTENDED AND EDUCATION

Elbert Mills and Joanne Hanks attended the NvACD annual meeting in Winnemucca Nevada. Joanne Hanks also attended several CWSD meetings, most LVEA board meetings, and many CWMA meetings.

LCD had their annual barbecue at Tom Lawry's on July 8, 2008. Sixty-five people were invited fifty two people attended the barbecue and had lots of food.

Respectfully submitted by,

Jessi Eckert
LCD Secretary